

**To:** R6 Daily News MailList[R6\_DailyNewsML@epa.gov]  
**From:** Hubbard, Joseph  
**Sent:** Tue 8/25/2015 4:21:53 PM  
**Subject:** Daily News Digest, Tuesday, Aug. 25  
[Daily News Digest 08252015.pdf](#)

**1 — Louisiana Health Officer Dr. Jimmy Guidry says 'Probably this (brain-eating) amoeba has been in our water systems, and we didn't know it', Advocate, 8/25/2015**

<http://theadvocate.com/news/13263946-123/dhh-finding-brain-eating-amoeba-in>

Louisiana's state health officer sought Monday to allay concerns over the discovery of brain-eating amoeba in an Ascension Parish water system this summer and five other systems in the past two years. Dr. Jimmy Guidry said state and government officials are working to improve disinfection in systems where *Naegleria fowleri* was found but argued the discoveries are likely part of improved testing, not the sudden appearance of the amoeba in public drinking water.

**2 — ADEQ: Clean Power Plan Final Rule Improvement Over Draft, Ark. Business, 8/24/2015**

<http://www.arkansasbusiness.com/article/106701/adeq-director-state-better-off-under-clean-power-plan-final-plan>

Arkansas is in better shape under the federal Clean Power Plan final rule than it was under the plan's draft, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality Director Becky Keogh said Monday. Keogh and Arkansas Public Service Commission Chairman Ted Thomas met with media Monday to address the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency final rule and its effects on Arkansas

**3 – KEN PAXTON BLOWS SMOKE ABOUT TEXAS' AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS, Observer, 8/25/2015**

<http://www.dallasobserver.com/news/ken-paxton-blows-smoke-about-texas-air-quality-improvements-7512701>

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has a fantastic announcement about Texas' air quality: It's great! In an announcement his office posted last week about his staunch refusal to follow the Environmental Protection Agency's new carbon regulations, he buries this inspiring news:

**4 — Arkansas allowed to intervene in lawsuit over regional haze reduction, Ark. News, 8/24/15** <http://arkansasnews.com/news/arkansas/arkansas-allowed-intervene-lawsuit-over->

[regional-haze-reduction#sthash.WEfODfH2.dpuf](#)

A federal judge ruled Monday that Arkansas can intervene in a lawsuit by the Sierra Club that seeks to force the federal Environmental Protection Agency to draft a plan for Arkansas to reduce "regional haze" pollution in the the Upper Buffalo and Caney Creek areas.

### **5 President Obama launches an 11-day 'climate tour' to broaden clean energy use, Climate Wire, 8/25/2015**

<http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/2015/08/25/stories/1060023877>

Federal investment has spurred innovation in solar and wind power technologies, and now is "not the time to pull back on those investments," President Obama said yesterday. Speaking at the eighth annual National Clean Energy Summit, hosted by Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), Obama touted clean, renewable energy as a way to not only cut emissions that contribute to climate change but also create jobs and grow the economy. For Congress and other naysayers, the president had little patience.

### **6 Legal experts say they need more time to determine mine spill fallout, Alb Journal, 8/24/2015**

<http://www.abqjournal.com/633241/news-around-the-region/legal-experts-say-they-need-more-time-to-determine-mine-spill-fallout.html>

Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye told a room filled with Shiprock ranchers and farmers last week that a Navajo healer completed a traditional ceremony last week at the Gold King Mine to restore balance to the polluted waters that continue to leak from the site. However, the extent of the economic damage has yet to be fully assessed.

### **7 Navajo Nation not lifting San Juan River closure after EPA OK's water, Denver Post, 8/20/2015**

[http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci\\_28695692/navajo-nation-not-lifting-san-juan-river-closure](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_28695692/navajo-nation-not-lifting-san-juan-river-closure)

The Navajo Nation said Monday morning it will not reopen the San Juan River for agricultural use even after the Environmental Protection Agency announced last week water quality rebounded from the major mine wastewater spill upstream. The tribe says it is waiting on testing from its internal environmental agency before reopening the river.

**8 — EPA records raise more questions about Colorado mine spill, what was known before it occurred, Star Tribune, 8/24/2015**

<http://www.startribune.com/new-documents-raise-more-questions-about-colorado-mine-spill/322731931/>

Documents released by U.S. officials have revealed that the Environmental Protection Agency knew of the potential for a blowout of toxic wastewater from a Colorado mine more than a year before a government cleanup team accidentally triggered such a release earlier this month.

**9 — McCarthy announces environmental cooperation with Japan, EE News, 8/24/2015**

<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2015/08/24/stories/1060023835>

U.S. EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and Japan's environmental minister today agreed to work together to confront climate change and slash air pollution. McCarthy met today with Japanese Environment Minister Yoshio Mochizuki in Tokyo during her weeklong visit to the Asian nation. After their meeting, both environmental chiefs pledged to boost U.S. and Japanese cooperation on a host of environmental issues, EPA announced today.

**10 Welcome to Quakelahoma, Vice News, 8/24/2015**

<https://news.vice.com/article/welcome-to-quakelahoma>

First, there was a little rumble. A bit later came the roar. At the Cripple Creek Stoneyard in Crescent, Oklahoma, clocks fell off the walls, and the office bounced on its slab. At Hometown Foods, the shelves swayed from side to side, tossing cans onto the floor.

**11 Shiprock Votes To Keep Irrigation Shut Off, KUNM, 8/24/2015**

<http://kunm.org/post/shiprock-votes-keep-irrigation-shut>

The Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency said initial testing results showed that water in the San Juan River is safe for agricultural use. But farmers in Shiprock have voted unanimously to keep the irrigation shut off through the end of this growing season. Shiprock Chapter President Duane “Chili” Yazzie said it was a difficult decision for farmers who rely on their fields for income and food.

**12 Oil companies in Oklahoma spending millions of dollars to reduce risk of earthquake activity, Oklahoman, 8/23/2015**

<http://newsok.com/oil-companies-in-oklahoma-spending-millions-of-dollars-to-reduce-risk-of-earthquake-activity/article/5441778>

As part of the effort to understand and reduce the growing earthquake activity throughout much of the state, disposal well operators since March have spent more than \$35 million to adjust their wells' depths with the aim of reducing the risk of contributing to earthquake activity. The actions came after the Oklahoma Corporation Commission three times this year issued new directives, telling operators in certain "areas of interest" to either adjust their disposal well depths or reduce volumes.

**13 — In last regulatory step, stakeholders petition for rule changes, Greenwire, 8/24/2015**

<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2015/08/24/stories/1060023798>

While the Clean Power Plan is final, states and energy companies have one last shot to urge U.S. EPA to make big or small changes to the rule. The regulatory process allows them to submit a "petition to reconsider." Many CPP stakeholders will be working on those submissions for the next several weeks or months, as they are expected to send them within 60 days after the rule is published in the Federal Register. (EPA hasn't said when that will happen, other than "as soon as practicable.")

**14 — Osage oil producers file second lawsuit against BIA, Tulsa World, 8/23/2015**

[http://www.tulsaworld.com/business/energy/week-in-review-osage-oil-producers-file-second-lawsuit-against/article\\_37321b40-583f-5935-a877-13162cebb4b9.html](http://www.tulsaworld.com/business/energy/week-in-review-osage-oil-producers-file-second-lawsuit-against/article_37321b40-583f-5935-a877-13162cebb4b9.html)

After a court victory last week in a separate case, Osage County oil producers filed a second lawsuit Tuesday against the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, this time blaming federal bureaucrats for a steep decline in drilling activity.

Only 39 wells have been drilled in Osage County since last summer, when the BIA announced that it would require expensive environmental assessments on individual well sites before issuing permits

**15 — Cities: White House clean energy push includes outreach to mayors on emissions, Inside EPA, 8/24/2015**

<http://insideclimate.com/climate-beat/cities-white-house-clean-energy-push-includes-outreach-mayors-emissions>

The White House's new push to "accelerate America's transition to cleaner sources of energy," announced today in advance of a speech the president will deliver at a clean energy summit in Las Vegas tonight, includes an effort to urge more mayors to commit to reduced greenhouse gas emissions in their cities. "The Compact of Mayors, a global coalition of mayors and city officials that have pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance resilience to climate change, is committing to further the uptake of clean energy technologies, including in low-income communities, and to track overall progress," the White House said in a fact sheet.

**16 EPA records raise more questions about Colorado mine spill, what was known before it occurred, FOX, 8/24/15**

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/markets/2015/08/24/epa-records-raise-more-questions-about-colorado-mine-spill-what-was-known/>

Documents released by U.S. officials have revealed that the Environmental Protection Agency knew of the potential for a blowout of toxic wastewater from a Colorado mine more than a year before a government cleanup team accidentally triggered such a release earlier this month.

**17 ADEQ says Colorado River water shouldn't be hurt by spill, Parker Pioneer, 8/24/15**

[http://www.parkerpioneer.net/news/article\\_d2b508ae-4aa8-11e5-a8df-a30ccc8baf4f.html](http://www.parkerpioneer.net/news/article_d2b508ae-4aa8-11e5-a8df-a30ccc8baf4f.html)

Based on analysis of water samples taken 100 miles from Lake Powell, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has stated a spill of toxic materials from an abandoned gold mine in Colorado should have no impact on water quality in the Colorado River. The spill occurred Aug. 5 at the abandoned Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colo. Contractors working for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency were attempting to insert a pipe into the mine to drain off the toxic materials.

**18 Oct. 9 stakeholder meeting set on EPA's Clean Power Plan, Ark. News, 8/24/15**

<http://arkansasnews.com/news/arkansas/oct-9-stakeholder-meeting-set-epa-s-clean-power-plan#sthash.uRWChsEg.dpuf>

The Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality and the state Public Service Commission said Monday they have scheduled an Oct. 9 stakeholder meeting to begin a new round of discussions on how Arkansas will comply with a new federal rule aimed at reducing carbon

emissions. “We face some tough decisions,” Public Service Commission Chairman Ted Thomas said in a news conference at ADEQ’s headquarters in North Little Rock